

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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SENIOR HOUSING SITES IN MONTICELLO AND ELLENVILLE RECEIVE \$1 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that projects to provide affordable housing for senior citizens in Ellenville and Monticello have been awarded a total of just over \$1 million in federal funds. Both projects benefited from their inclusion in the Sullivan-Wawarsing Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone, a designation spearheaded by Hinchey in 1999.

"Clean, decent, affordable housing is vital to any community," said Hinchey. "These projects will be good for the senior citizens that will live there and good for Ellenville and Monticello."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development office awarded Two Plus Four Construction \$531,479 to develop Ellenville Senior Apartments on Center St. Belmont Development was awarded \$475,640 by Rural Development to create Monticello Court on Richardson Avenue. Each project will provide 32 units of housing for senior citizens. Both are expected to break ground this spring.

"There is a strong need for senior housing in Sullivan County," aid Alan Sorenson, Sullivan County's Commissioner of Planning and Community Development. "The location of the apartment building in Monticello will greatly enhance the neighborhood."

Ellenville Mayor T.J. Briggs said, "The project is vital to seniors in Ellenville, who desperately need affordable quality housing. It is also part of the continued revitalization of downtown Ellenville."

The program under which the grants were awarded involves a high level of cooperation with New York State. The state's Division of Housing and Community Renewal is also providing over \$1 million to the two projects. Federal tax credits are also made available. Each development is expected to receive nearly \$2 million from these credits.

The Sullivan-Wawarsing REAP Zone was created in January 1999 through an agreement between Hinchey, the Secretary of Agriculture, and local leaders to assist the area in community development. As a REAP Zone-endorsed project, the grant application received discretionary points in the competitive selection process.